

FOCUS

ON JERICHO TEACHERS
AND THEIR ISSUES

September 2010

President's Message - September 2010

By Maryann Risi

When I began teaching in the days of the dinosaurs, we were met each September with a new, better way to provide a well rounded education: SRA boxes for individualized instruction; "contracts" for fairer assessment; the "new" math; and finally "Whole Language."

Today, we face the same challenges but we are being asked to serve Alphabet Soup. We are all immersed in DBQs and UbDs. For 2011, we'll be looking into APPRs, TIPs, and RTI...none funded by RTTT.

Let's spend a few minutes to review the latest ladle-full: APPR - Annual Professional Performance Review is the government's attempts to codify the teacher assessment process. NYSUT & the Commissioner of Education have agreed that 20% of a teacher's "grade" of 100 can be based on test results. Another 20% on student growth as defined through negotiations and 60% on negotiated items to reflect an evaluation of Highly Effective, Effective, Developing or Ineffective on nine set criteria.

The district plans to use the Charlotte Danielson model for classroom evaluations. This should allow for a wide range of teaching styles since Ms. Danielson, in her book Enhancing Professional Practice, says "Which method a teacher selects depends on both the content to be learned and the students' age and preferred approach. The

teacher is the person most knowledgeable about the factors. Another professional, however, might have selected a different approach to accomplish the same purposes with the same students; this approach might have been as effective, or perhaps more so. But the discussion is about appropriateness of different choices; there are no right or wrong choices" (page 25). Good news for us!

TIPs are Teacher Improvement Plans for those teachers who have been evaluated as unsatisfactory. These plans must include: identification of a specific behavior to be changed; the ways the district intends to help the teacher; a timeline for accomplishing the change; and who will support the teacher and monitor progress. TIPs are intended to help teachers with their professional performance and not as disciplinary tools used to gather evidence to terminate an individual.

If you have any questions regarding the first two of our alphabet noodles, please see a member of the Professional Practices Committee: Ron Verderber (chairperson), Angie Cancemi, Michael Hartnett, Aracelli Vidal, Jacquie O'Neill, and Lauren DeMarinis.

Enjoy digesting your first spoonful of our Alphabet soup. Next FOCUS, we'll look at RTI.

Join Us At Homecoming, Oct. 1 & 2

Homecoming is not just a "high school" event! It is one of the rare opportunities for all teachers from all buildings to get together and have some fun! If you have kids, BRING THEM! If you don't have kids, BORROW SOME! The carnival is really fun - rides, games, cotton candy - the works! Many of our student clubs and organizations will be fundraising so please come and support them.

The carnival will be open on Friday from 2:30 pm to 6:30 pm and Saturday from 11 am until 6 pm. The parade kicks off at 11:30 from the middle school teachers' parking lot (by the gym). Arrive by 11:15 to line up behind our JTA banner (traditionally carried by our new teachers). "The game" (soccer, against New Hyde Park) starts at noon.



Jericho Teachers Association

President - Maryann Risi

Middle School VP - Ted Lucher

High School VP - Kevin Brodsky

Elementary VP - Mady Bernard

Treasurer - Ron Verderber

Secretary - Mike Pekor

Benefits Trust - Suzanne Jacobsen

VOTE/COPE - Theresa Cantwell

Focus / Web - Denise Ryder

JTA Office Secretary
Maria Migliaccio x3443

www.jerichoteachers.com

FOCUS

is the monthly newsletter of the Jericho Teachers Association.

We welcome input, articles, viewpoints, and questions from all members. If there is an issue you would like to see

addressed or if you would like to contribute please e-mail

Denise Ryder, at

dryder@jerichoschools.org



JTA Delegate Assembly

The Delegate Assembly is made up of the Executive Board and representatives from each of the five buildings.

Executive Board

President - Maryann Risi
 Middle School VP - Ted Lucher
 High School VP - Kevin Brodsky
 Elementary VP - Mady Bernard
 Treasurer - Ron Verderber
 Secretary - Mike Pekor

Building Delegates (AKA Building Reps.)

Cantiague

Joan Gulamerian
 Clare Hussey
 Lois Burn

Jackson

Martha Bertolini
 Tina Belotti
 Catherine Rosh

Seaman

Jackie O'Neill
 Lynne Mattern
 Mona Iraggi

Middle School

Theresa Cantwell
 Carol Dell'Erba
 Diane Gilbert
 Elisa Waters

High School

Sean Clarkin
 Debbie Lesse
 Louise Millmann
 Denise Romano
 Jim Shotter
 Loriann Ciasulli

Coaches Association

Will Martinez

Jericho Retirees Association

Phyllis Mandel

The Delegate Assembly meets monthly to discuss issues and concerns. In addition to monthly meetings, the reps meet with their building administration to discuss concerns and to work together toward common goals. Executive Board members and building reps also attend district Board of Education meetings.



Friday, September 24 is a Jericho Jeans Day to benefit Making Strides! Wear jeans and give \$5 to the principal's secretary in each building.

October 17th is the Making Strides Breast Cancer Walk for the American Cancer Society at Jones Beach.

The following people will give you forms to sign up to walk and sheets for contributions

Seaman - Lauren Browne
 Cantiague - Jen Benderly
 HS - Helene Kriegstein
 MS - Brooke Schnittman
 Jackson - Mady Bernard

Our money is sent in as part of Nassau NYSUT money. Last year the JTA was in the top 18 out of 70 districts that contributed! It would be great if we can meet or exceed last year's total.

Our team is NYSUT-Jericho

If you can't walk that day, you can still contribute to the cause by giving generously!

Hope to see you there!

JTA Haute Couture

JTA Jackets - XS-XL - \$52.00, XXL - 54.00

Polo shirts come

BLACK or BLUE.

XS -XL - \$19.00

XXL- 21.00



"Don't leave for homecoming with out it."

Dates to remember:

JTA District Wide Meetings - Nov. 3rd and May 25th Teacher Recognition - Nov. 4
June 10th - End-of-Year Celebration